

## HUNGARIAN ARTICLE ON POLYGRAPH TESTING

A long article by Gabor Nyarady in the 16 October 1966 issue of the political weekly Magyarorszag, Budapest, pages 16 and 17, discusses the theory behind and the practical applications of the polygraph or lie detector. The first paragraph contains the following: "At the recent press conference held in connection with the subversive work of the United States intelligence organs, Nandor Kiss, sleeping car conductor, who fell into a net of American agents in Austria, and who 'cooperated' with them for years at the request of Hungarian counter-intelligence, said that he had been tested three times by the so-called lie detector and that they had established all three times that he was reliable from the American viewpoint (he took tranquilizers so that his nervousness would not be registered by the machine which measures pulse, blood pressure changes, and other physiological symptoms)."

CPYRGHT The article states that the CIA and the NSA use the polygraph on prospective employees and that similar use is made of the polygraph by many private firms. The article quotes the findings of a Congressional committee to the effect that federal government organs operated 512 polygraph machines in 1965, not counting those used by the CIA and NSA. The article says that the case of Nandor Kiss proves that the report of the Congressional committee had no effect on the intelligence organs.

Nyarady then discusses the theory behind and the historical development of the polygraph on the basis of Woodworth's and Schlosberg's "Experimental Psychology" (recently published in Hungarian by the Academy Press) and W. M. Marston's "The Lie Detector Test." It is stated, as the opinion of qualified experts, that the guilt or innocence of the person tested can be established correctly in 70 percent of the cases, that the reactions are too small for an opinion to be established in 20 percent of the cases, and that mistakes are made, usually to the benefit of the suspect, in 10 percent of the cases. Woodworth and Scholsberg are quoted to the effect that the polygraph can offer great aid in criminal investigations, clearing innocent suspects, and drawing attention away from blind alleys. Often, the polygraph actually brings a confession when the suspect sees that the test has exposed him.

In conclusion, Nyarady approves of the use of the lie detector in criminal investigations and in the psychology laboratory but says that every man of good will must protest against uses which violate freedom of thought.